

Missouri Teacher Preparation Institution Profiles

Compiled by the
Missouri Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education

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CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Notes</i>	<i>ix</i>

PROFILES

Avila College	1
Central Methodist College	9
Central Missouri State University	15
College of the Ozarks	23
Columbia College	31
Culver-Stockton College	37
Drury University	43
Evangel University	51
Fontbonne College	59
Hannibal-LaGrange College	65
Harris-Stowe State College	73
Lincoln University	81
Lindenwood University	89
Maryville University of Saint Louis	95
Missouri Baptist College	101
Missouri Southern State College	109
Missouri Valley College	117
Missouri Western State College	123
Northwest Missouri State University	131
Park University	139
Rockhurst University	145
Saint Louis University	151
Southeast Missouri State University	159
Southwest Baptist University	167
Southwest Missouri State University	175
Stephens College	185
Truman State University	191
University of Missouri-Columbia	199
University of Missouri-Kansas City	207
University of Missouri-St. Louis	215
Washington University	223
Webster University	231
William Jewell College	239
William Woods University	245

PREFACE

School teachers and administrators are in demand. Persistent staff shortages are frustrating many of our school districts. These times tempt us to limit our goals to numbers, to just making sure there is a teacher in every classroom, but we must not lose sight of the fact that staffing our schools is an issue of quality as well as quantity. In its 1998 report, *Meeting the Challenge: Providing Superior Public Education for all Missouri Students*, the State Board of Education concluded

Missouri is raising its expectations for what young people should know and be able to do. It follows, then, that Missouri's future teachers and school leaders must be better prepared and motivated to help all students meet the challenge of tougher standards. This is the heart of the matter: Without an adequate supply of effective teachers and school leaders, the public schools will never be able to achieve the levels of performance we desire.

Missouri's public schools and teacher preparation institutions must work together to

- recruit top students to the field of education
- prepare them for the realities of standards-based instruction, performance assessment, and diverse learning styles
- ensure their success during those critical first years in the classroom, and
- continue to support their professional growth throughout their careers.

We published the "Missouri Teacher Preparation Institution Profiles" for the first time last year to serve as a starting point for communication and collaboration between our K-12 system and the higher education institutions that prepare the majority of Missouri's public school teachers. In April 2000, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education took another step toward forging this new partnership by convening an Education Summit on Teacher Education. At this important meeting, college presidents and chancellors began discussions about topics such as the standards for admission to teacher education programs, recruitment of minority students into the teaching profession, and the importance of making teacher preparation an institution-wide responsibility and including the arts and sciences faculty members who equip many of our new teachers with their content-area knowledge and skills.

We have tried to improve this second edition of the "Teacher Preparation Institution Profiles," based on suggestions we received from institution leaders, education program representatives, members of the State Board of Education, and others. Readers will find new information about

- the numbers of students who transfer to Missouri teacher preparation institutions from public community colleges
- the numbers of Bright Flight, Byrd, Missouri Teacher Education and Missouri Minority Teaching scholarship students attending each institution
- the institution's instructional technology requirements for education majors.

- the numbers of STARR Teachers, National Board Certified teachers and Missouri Teachers of the Year among the institution's graduates. (Institutions were invited to provide additional information about honors and awards earned by their education program graduates.)

In 1998, Congress passed Title II of the Higher Education Act, which provides federal grants to improve the recruitment, preparation and support of new teachers. The law also requires states and higher education institutions to report on several aspects of teacher preparation and certification. We will align future editions of the "Teacher Preparation Institution Profiles" as closely as possible with these required reports.

The profiles are prepared by a team of Department staff members with cooperation and assistance from our teacher preparation institutions, the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the Assessment Resource Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia, ACT Research Services, and the Educational Testing Service. We appreciate the help of these organizations. We invite the leaders of our K-12 school districts and our teacher preparation institutions to continue to suggest ways to improve this publication and make it more useful.

D. Kent King
Acting Commissioner of Education

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains profiles of 34 of Missouri's 36 teacher preparation institutions with programs approved by the State Board of Education. The two newest teacher preparation programs in the state—at the University of Missouri-Rolla (approved in 1998) and at Westminster College in Fulton (approved in 1997)—are not included in this report. Much of the data presented in the profiles looks at the individuals recommended for initial certification by institutions in 1998; neither of the new programs had 1998 “program completers.”

Information in the profiles is presented in four major sections: General Information, Resources, Education Processes, and Performance.

Under “General Information,” readers will find data about both the institution and its teacher preparation program (enrollments, entrance requirements, demographic data about the individuals recommended for initial Missouri certification in 1998, etc.). Information about faculty of the institution and the education program is presented under “Resources.” The “Education Processes” section contains information about student-to-faculty ratios and average class size, as well as descriptions of the practical experience requirements for education majors, partnerships the institution has formed with local schools, co-curricular programs that the institutions provide to enhance learning opportunities for their teacher education students, and technology requirements for education majors. Finally, under “Performance,” data are presented about the numbers recommended for certification in various subject areas and grade levels, their performance on the Praxis II exit exam, and their employment in the Missouri public education system.

Data included in the profiles were drawn from a variety of sources: the Department's Core Data and certification databases; reports prepared by the institutions to meet requirements of the Missouri Standards for Teacher Education Programs (MoSTEP); the Department of Higher Education; individual institution publications, Internet sites, and accreditation reports; and databases of the Educational Testing Service and the Assessment Resource Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Specific sources are cited, item by item, throughout the profiles.

Explanations of various data elements are indicated by either an asterisk, a superscript number or both. Asterisk notes can be found within the text of the profiles. The superscript numbers refer to the more extensive publication “Notes” that begin on page ix. For more information about the data presented in the profiles, contact the Teacher Education Section at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (573-751-0371).

NOTES

1. Bright Flight Scholarship. These merit-based scholarships encourage top-ranked Missouri high school graduates to attend approved Missouri postsecondary schools. Recipients, who must score in the top 3 percent of all Missouri students taking the ACT or SAT, receive an annual award of \$2,000.
2. Byrd Scholarship. The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship is a federally funded scholarship awarded to high school graduates nationwide who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes and score at or above the 90th percentile on the ACT or SAT. Students receive up to \$1,500 a year for their first four years of study at a four-year higher education institution. Only the number of Missouri recipients attending the institution is reported in the profiles.
3. Average ACT Score of 1994 Freshmen Class. Much of the information presented in the profile focuses on the group recommended for initial certification by the institution in 1998. Because many of those individuals would have entered the institution in the fall of 1994, the average ACT score of the institution's 1994 freshman class is provided for comparison.
4. Missouri Teacher Education Scholarship. This competitive, one-time, non-renewable award of \$2,000 is funded by the state, but is contingent upon a matching award from the recipient's chosen institution. Eligible students must be Missouri residents; high school seniors or a freshman or sophomore at a community or four-year college or university in Missouri; and rank in the top 15 percent of their high school class or score in the top 15 percent on the ACT or SAT. About 240 scholarships are awarded annually.
5. Missouri Minority Teaching Scholarship. The scholarship is a competitive \$3,000 award, which is renewable for up to four years. To qualify, individuals must be Missouri residents; African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, or Native American; and a high school senior, college student, or adult without a degree. Qualified applicants must rank in the top 25 percent of their high school class or score at or above the 75th percentile on the ACT or SAT. Individuals who have completed 30 college hours and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and individuals with a baccalaureate degree who are returning to an approved math or science teacher education program also are eligible.
6. Education Program Completers. The profiles focus on individuals who completed the education program at the institutions and were recommended for initial Missouri certification by the institutions in 1998. More precisely, these individuals were entered in the teacher certification database at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education between Jan. 1, 1998, and Dec. 31, 1998.
7. Average ACT score of individuals recommended for initial certification in 1998. This was calculated by ACT Research Services using the scores of individuals recommended for initial certification in 1998 who took the test in 1983 or later. The scores of about 86 percent of those recommended for initial Missouri certification in 1998 are included in the average. Those who took the ACT before 1983 and those who took the SAT are not included in this statistic.

8. C-BASE scores of individuals recommended for initial certification in 1998. The College Basic Academic Subjects Exam is the official assessment required for admittance into professional education programs in Missouri; however, the scores reported in the profiles do not reflect the performance of 100 percent of the individuals recommended for initial certification in 1998. Persons who earn a bachelor's degree before completing a teacher preparation program are not required to take the C-BASE. Other discrepancies may result from incorrect data entry. Minimum, maximum and median scores are provided in the first chart for those who passed all five subjects on their first try and in the second chart for those who passed all five subjects in one or more attempts. The second chart is a total, which includes the individuals who passed all five subjects on their first try. The median score of all those recommended for certification in 1998 *statewide* appears in parentheses after the subject area in the second chart.
9. Individuals recommended for initial certification in 1998, Employed in Missouri public schools in 1998-99. This number does not include individuals employed in public schools in another state, employed in private schools in Missouri or another state, or who received their teaching credentials but were employed in another field or unemployed. The number includes all individuals who received initial certification in 1998 and were employed by a Missouri school district, whether as a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor, librarian, or in another position reported by the district in the Core Data system.
10. Praxis II Exit Exam. From 1990 until 1998, the National Teachers' Examination (NTE) has served as the official examination for certification in Missouri. Beginning in 1998, the Praxis II Content Knowledge examinations will eventually replace the NTE in most areas of certification. Both the Praxis II and the NTE are administered by the Educational Testing Service. Qualifying scores for the exams are approved by the Missouri State Board of Education. Scores for the NTE and Praxis II are based on different scales and are not comparable.
11. "Lapsed," under "Certification Status as of Sept. 1, 1999." Of those who received initial Missouri certification in 1993, based on recommendations from the institution, these individuals did not take the steps necessary to maintain active status. It should not be assumed that individuals with lapsed certification have left the teaching profession; some may be teaching in private schools while others have moved away and may be teaching in other states.
12. Missouri school districts employing institution graduates. In this case, anyone who holds a degree from the institution is counted, not just those recommended for initial Missouri certification by the institution. A change in the Department's certification database in 1988 makes it impractical to retrieve initial certification information for those who received their teaching certificates prior to 1988.
13. STARR Teachers. Up to 36 of Missouri's master teachers are chosen each year to participate in the Select Teachers as Regional Resources (STARR) program. STARR is a professional development program created by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993 to help Missouri teachers use authentic instruction, performance-based assessment, and the Show-Me Standards. After a year of preparation and training, the teachers take leave from their home districts the following school year and report to one of the state's nine, university-based Regional Professional Development

Centers. From these sites, they provide professional development services to their colleagues in surrounding schools and districts.

14. National Board Certified Teachers. These teachers have met the advanced licensing requirements of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. They have completed a two-part assessment, which is based on the National Board's rigorous standards and generally takes a year to complete. Although the National Board certification process is voluntary, Missouri provides incentives and support for teachers pursuing the credential.
15. Missouri Teachers of the Year. A Missouri Teacher of the Year is selected annually in the oldest national program honoring classroom teachers. The national program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc. and is conducted in Missouri by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with financial support from the Boeing Company. Missouri's Teachers of the Year are selected on the basis of their expertise; dedication to the profession; community leadership; recommendations of students, parents and colleagues; and their ability to serve as spokespersons for the teaching profession.

Missouri
Teacher Preparation Institution

PROFILES

